THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Media reports attributed these remarks to an unnamed senior official of the U.S. Administration. U.S. President George Bush and senior Administration officials have, on a number of occasions, publicly called on Pakistan to take steps to end cross-border terrorism against India and take action against terrorist organisations based in Pakistan.

(b) There is clear evidence on the ground that Pakistan has begun backtracking on its stated commitment to fight terrorism. Pakistani actions have made it very clear that Pakistan will continue its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in India. The Pakistani leaders, including its President, have also reverted to Pakistan's time-worn and untenable formulations on terrorism, including seeking to justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir. Government believes that Pakistan must stop cross-border terrorism against India and act on the list of 20 fugitives given to Pakistan to demonstrate its sincerity in supporting the international campaign against terrorism and creating an atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue with India.

Extradition treaty between India and Pakistan

3876. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting of Information Mursters, Pakistan indicated its intention to enter into an Extradition Treaty with India for exchange of fugitives;

(b) whether the Pak-authorities also impressed upon their desire for talks with India on various bilateral issues; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Pakistan has not made any formal proposa' to India for an extradition treaty.

In comments to the media, in early March, the Pakistan Foreign Minister suggested that the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty

between India and Pakistan could be explored when dialogue between the two countnes resumes, and that in such a context Pakistan could consider the question of 20 fugitives from law being sought by India.

However, during the visit to India of Pakistan President Parvez Musharraf, in July 2001, Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, had specifically proposed to the latter the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan. The President of Pakistan turned down the suggestion arguing that such a Treaty was possible only after the normalization of relations between the two countries.

It is quite clear that the recent suggestions from Pakistan for an extradition treaty are only meant for propaganda purposes and to delay action on the 20 fugitives from law.

(b) and (c) Pakistan leaders have been calling for a resumption of dialogue with India, even while Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India and its leaders justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

India has always desired the establishment of good neighbourly ties with Pakistan and for this purpose is committed to resuming the Composite Dialogue initiated by us in 1998. It is for Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and take urgent action of the list of 20 fugitives of law, so that appropriate conditions for a meaningful dialogue process are created.

Pakistans invitation to Home Minister

3877. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's Interior Minister lately invited the Union Home Minister to visit Islamabad;

(b) if so, in what context such invitation was spelt out and what was its implication; and

(c) what was the Home Minister's response thereto?